

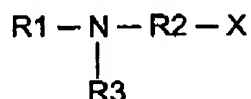
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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

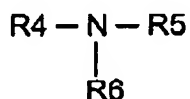
1. (Currently Amended) A gelled anode mixture comprising a metal alloy powder, a gelling agent, an alkaline electrolyte having a hydroxide concentration less than 40 weight%, and at least one amphoteric surfactant.

2. (Currently Amended) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amphoteric surfactant has a formula of ~~Compound I~~



wherein: R1 is an alkyl group having between 8 and 30 unbranched carbon atoms; R2 is an alkyl group having between 1 to about 6 unbranched carbon atoms, optionally substituted with 1 or more hydroxyl substituents; R3 is selected from a polyethylene oxide group having between 3 and 40 ethylene oxide units and a polypropylene oxide group having between 1 to 10 propylene oxide units; and, X is an anionic acid group, an anionic acid ester, or an alkali metal salt of an anionic acid or acid ester.

3. (Currently Amended) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 2 further comprising an amphoteric surfactant having a formula of ~~Compound II~~



wherein: R4 is an unbranched alkyl group having between 8 and 30 unbranched carbon atoms that form an aliphatic fatty amine when bound to the nitrogen atom; R5 is

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selected from a polyethylene oxide group having between 3 and 40 ethylene oxide units and a polypropylene oxide group having between 1 and 10 propylene oxide units; and, R6 is selected from hydrogen, a polyethylene oxide group having between 3 and 40 ethylene oxide units and a polypropylene oxide group having between 1 and 10 propylene oxide units.

4. (Currently Amended) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a surfactant having a general formula  $Y SO_x^-$  or a salt thereof, wherein x is 3 or 4, and wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, and a carboxy acid group.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 4 wherein the  $Y SO_x^-$  surfactant is a salt of a sulfated octadecanoic acid.

7. (Original) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 4 wherein the  $Y SO_x^-$  surfactant is a sodium salt of sulfated oleic acid.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 1 further comprising an organic phosphate ester surfactant.

10. (Original) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 9 wherein the organic phosphate ester surfactant is an ethylene oxide-adduct type organic phosphate ester.

11. (Canceled)

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12. (Currently Amended) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 9 further comprising a surfactant having a general formula  $Y SO_x^-$  or a salt thereof, wherein x is 3 or 4, and wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, and a carboxy acid group.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A gelled anode mixture comprising a metal alloy powder, a gelling agent, an alkaline electrolyte having a hydroxide concentration less than 40 weight%, wherein the metal alloy powder comprises zinc particles, at least 70 weight% of the particles having a particle size within a 100 micron size range distribution, the distribution having a mode between about 100 and about 300 microns.

15. (Original) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 14 wherein the mode of the particle size distribution is about 100 microns.

16. (Original) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 14 wherein the mode of the particle size distribution is about 150 microns.

17. (Original) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 14 wherein the mode of the particle size distribution is about 250 microns.

18. (Currently Amended) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 14, wherein the electrolyte has an hydroxide concentration no higher than about 34 weight%.

19. (Currently Amended) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 14, wherein the electrolyte has an hydroxide concentration no higher than about 30 weight%.

20. (Currently Amended) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 14, wherein the

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electrolyte has an hydroxide concentration no higher than about 28 weight%.

21. (Original) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrolyte comprises KOH.

22. (Currently Amended) An alkaline electrochemical cell comprising:

a positive current collector;

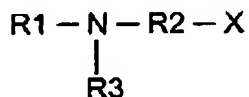
a cathode in contact with the positive current collector;

a gelled anode comprising a metal alloy powder, a gelling agent, an alkaline electrolyte having a hydroxide concentration less than 40 weight%, and at least one amphoteric surfactant~~[[.]]~~;

a separator between the cathode and the anode; and

a negative current collector in electrical contact with the anode.

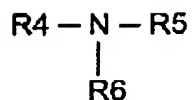
23. (Currently Amended) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 22 wherein the amphoteric surfactant has a formula of ~~Compound I~~



wherein: R1 is an alkyl group having between 8 and 30 unbranched carbon atoms; R2 is an alkyl group having between 1 to about 6 unbranched carbon atoms, optionally substituted with 1 or more hydroxyl substituents; R3 is selected from a polyethylene oxide group having between 3 and 40 ethylene oxide units and a polypropylene oxide group having between 1 to 10 propylene oxide units; and, X is an anionic acid group, an anionic acid ester, or an alkali metal salt of an anionic acid or acid ester.

24. (Currently Amended) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 23 further comprising an amphoteric surfactant having a formula of ~~Compound II~~

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wherein: R4 is an unbranched alkyl group having between 8 and 30 unbranched carbon atoms that form an aliphatic fatty amine when bound to the nitrogen atom; R5 is selected from a polyethylene oxide group having between 3 and 40 ethylene oxide units and a polypropylene oxide group having between 1 and 10 propylene oxide units; and, R6 is selected from hydrogen, a polyethylene oxide group having between 3 and 40 ethylene oxide units and a polypropylene oxide group having between 1 and 10 propylene oxide units.

25. (Currently Amended) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 22 further comprising a surfactant having a general formula  $\text{Y SO}_x^-$  or a salt thereof, wherein x is 3 or 4, and wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, and a carboxy acid group.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 25 wherein the  $\text{Y SO}_x^-$  surfactant is a salt of a sulfated octadecanoic acid.

28. (Original) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 25 wherein the  $\text{Y SO}_x^-$  surfactant is a sodium salt of sulfated oleic acid.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 22 further comprising an organic phosphate ester surfactant.

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31. (Original) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 30 wherein the organic phosphate ester surfactant is an ethylene oxide-adduct type organic phosphate ester.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 30 further comprising a surfactant having a general formula  $Y SO_x^-$  or a salt thereof, wherein x is 3 or 4, and wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, and a carboxy acid group.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) An alkaline electrochemical cell comprising:  
a positive current collector;  
a cathode in contact with the positive current collector;  
a gelled anode comprising a metal alloy powder, a gelling agent, an alkaline electrolyte having a hydroxide concentration less than 40 weight%, wherein the metal alloy powder comprises zinc particles, at least 70 weight% of the particles having a particle size within a 100 micron size range distribution, the distribution having a mode between about 100 and about 300 microns;  
a separator between the cathode and the anode; and  
a negative current collector in electrical contact with the anode.

36. (Original) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 35 wherein the mode of the particle size distribution is about 100 microns.

37. (Original) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 35 wherein the mode of the particle size distribution is about 200 microns.

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38. (Original) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 35 wherein the mode of the particle size distribution is about 300 microns.

39. (Currently Amended) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 35, wherein the electrolyte has an hydroxide concentration no higher than about 34 weight%.

40. (Currently Amended) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 35, wherein the electrolyte has an hydroxide concentration no higher than about 30 weight%.

41. (Currently Amended) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 35, wherein the electrolyte has an hydroxide concentration no higher than about 28 weight%.

42. (Original) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 35, wherein the electrolyte comprises KOH.

43. (New) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in claim 14 further comprising at least one amphoteric surfactant.

44. (New) A alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 35 wherein the gelled anode further comprises at least one amphoteric surfactant.